Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A safety device for a motor vehicle comprising:

a gas generator;

an airbag connected to be filled by the gas generator in the event of an accident; and

at least one orifice, through which gas can flow and a flow resistance of which is variable; wherein

the orifice is duct shaped, at least in a partial region; [[and]]

the ~~flow resistance of the~~ duct-shaped partial region has a flow resistance which adjusts automatically as a function of flow velocity of gas flowing through the orifice; and [[.]]

said flow resistance increases with increasing flow velocity of gas flowing through said orifice.

Claims 2.-3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein the orifice comprises a tubular duct having a cross sectional area which is elastically expandable.

Claim 5. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein said duct shaped partial region of the orifice comprises a movable closure element, which extends parallel to the alignment of the orifice and is arranged in front of the orifice, and cooperates with regions of the safety device that surround the orifice.

Claim 6. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 5, wherein the closure element is spring-loaded.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein

the duct shaped partial region comprises at least two closure elements which are aligned essentially parallel, extend approximately perpendicularly to the alignment of the orifice and are mounted in front of the orifice.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The safety device according to Claim 7, wherein the closure elements are movably supported.

Claim 9. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 7, wherein the closure elements comprise an elastic material.

Claim 10. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein at least a pressure parameter that occurs in the duct-shaped partial region owing to Bernoulli's pressure equation is used as an input variable for a control process for adjusting the flow resistance.

Claim 11. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein side walls of the duct-shaped partial region are gas-permeable.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein the side walls of the duct-shaped partial region have at least one of the following characteristics:

they are perforated; and

their inner surfaces have a contoured surface configuration.

Claim 13. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein the orifice is formed in the airbag.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein the orifice is arranged in a region of a connecting element [[(8)]] between the gas generator and the airbag.

Claim 15. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein the orifice is formed in the gas generator.

Claim 16. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein, in addition to the self-adjusting orifice, the safety device further comprises at least a second orifice.

Claim 17. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 16, wherein, the second orifice has an essentially constant size.

Claim 18. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, further comprising means for ensuring minimum leakage, provided in the orifice.

Claim 19. (Original) The safety device according to Claim 1, wherein one of a characteristic, a characteristic curve, behavior and a flow path of the safety device is adjustable as a function of a direction of gas flow.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating a pressure response in an airbag of a vehicle airbag safety restraint system, comprising:

providing an orifice for flow of gas into or out of said airbag; and

adjusting a fluid flow resistance of said orifice as a function of a flow velocity of gas flowing through said orifice; [[.]]

wherein said adjusting step comprises increasing said fluid flow resistance with increasing flow velocity of said gas.

Claim 21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein:

said orifice is provided in the form of an elastic duct; and

said adjusting step comprises expanding and contracting a cross sectional area of said elastic duct in response to pressure in said gas flowing through said orifice.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said adjusting step comprises adjusting a cross sectional area of said orifice as an inverse function of said flow velocity.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said duct-shaped region has a cross sectional area that varies inversely with the flow velocity of gas flowing through the orifice.